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CONFERENCE ON THE 1951 SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PLAN  
OF RSFSR HYGIENE INSTITUTES

Z. G. Vol'fson

The conference on the 1951 scientific research plan of RSFSR hygiene institutes was held at the Central Scientific Research Sanitation Institute imeni Erisman from 27 to 29 November 1950. It was attended by directors of RSFSR sanitation-hygiene institutes and institutes of labor hygiene and occupational diseases. It was held jointly with the Hygiene Commission, Scientific Medical Council, Ministry of Public Health RSFSR, and participated in by representatives of hygiene institutes of the Academy of Medical Sciences USSR.

The scientific work plans of institutes were compiled with due consideration being given to the decisions of the Pavlov Session of the Academy of Sciences USSR and Academy of Medical Sciences USSR held in June and July 1950. In the scientific thematics of hygiene institutes, provisions were made for a more extensive use of physiological, pathomorphological, and toxicological methods of research, and for a comprehensive development of scientific problems of hygiene jointly with clinics and corresponding chairs of medical institutes.

The guiding principle of scientific research work in 1951 is the study of environmental factors from the standpoint of their effect on the organism of man and on individual groups of people.

The 1951 thematics of scientific works of hygiene institutes is being planned in accordance with public health tasks arising from the intensive growth of industry and agriculture. A significant position is given to problems concerned with the execution of the great Stalin construction projects. Problems arising in connection with this will be worked out by the Sanitation Institute imeni Erisman and the Saratov Sanitation-Hygiene Institute. This work also will be participated in by many chairs of hygiene of medical institutes and oblast sanitation-epidemiological stations.

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An important position in the 1951 thematics is occupied by problems connected with the decree of the government, dated 29 May 1949, "On Measures for Combating Pollution of the Air and the Improvement of Hygienic Conditions of Populated Places." Comprehensive problems dealing with the prevention of diseases caused by the pollution of the air will be worked on by the Sanitation Institute imeni Erisman and the Leningrad, Novosibirsk, and Moscow Oblast Sanitation-Hygiene Institutes.

In connection with this problem, special importance is attached to the hygienic characteristics of atmospheric impurities and the development of standards for the maximum permissible concentration of harmful substances in the air. The Sanitation Institute imeni Erisman will continue work on establishing values of the maximum permissible concentration for many harmful substances in the air; studies in this direction will be made with use of conditioned-reflex methods.

To characterize the effect of small concentrations of certain substances on the organism (hydrogen sulfide, sulfur dioxide) it is intended to determine the threshold of their physiological effect on the central nervous system. In 1951, the Leningrad Sanitation-Hygiene Institute will continue studies on the radiation regime of water purification in Leningrad, and also on the effectiveness of equipment for purifying waste material from hydroelectric stations. The study of the effect of waste materials from chemical plants on the population has been planned by the Moscow Oblast and Novosibirsk Sanitation-Hygiene Institutes.

In 1951, the Sverdlovsk Sanitation-Hygiene Institute will continue the study of the effect of pollution of the air with fluorine.

A very essential problem is the study of cancerogenic materials in the air of cities and the establishment of the possible relationship between smoke-filled air and afflictions of respiratory organs. In 1950, this work was conducted by the Sanitation Institute imeni Erisman jointly with the Oncology Institute and, in 1951, will be continued in Moscow, Groznyy, and Ivanovo. This year the Saratov Sanitation-Hygiene Institute also will participate in the development of this problem.

The problem on sanitary protection of reservoirs occupies a significant position in the 1951 scientific work plan. The Sanitation Institute imeni Erisman and the Saratov Sanitation-Hygiene Institute will study the sanitary condition of the Volga and its condition for sewage-disposal use in populated regions where industrial-waste waters are released. In 1951, the Moscow Oblast Sanitation Institute will study the effect of waste waters from the "Akrikhin" plant on open reservoirs and underground water sources. The Leningrad Sanitation-Hygiene Institute is working out problems dealing with the effect of waste waters from plants producing plastics and the "Farmakon" plant is working on the regime of reservoirs and the condition of waters used by the public.

The Sanitation Institute imeni Erisman is continuing research to determine the maximum permissible concentrations of harmful materials which can be safely released with waste waters into reservoirs (dinitrobenzene, dinitronaphthalene, sulfides, tetraethyllead, and chromium). The effect of water factors (bacteriological and geochemical) on the morbidity of the population will be studied by the Sanitation Institute imeni Erisman and the Novosibirsk, Saratov, and Moscow Oblast Sanitation-Hygiene Institutes.

Problems dealing with hygiene standards and sanitation tasks in connection with the planning and building of large kolkhoz villages and agricultural cities were included in the thematics of the Sanitation Institute imeni Erisman and the Novosibirsk Sanitation-Hygiene Institute.

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The thematics of the Sanitation Institute imeni Erisman and the Leningrad Sanitation Institute also include such problems as the physiological and hygienic evaluation of luminescent lighting and its effect on the central nervous system, as well as the hygienic characteristics and effect of radiation heating on man.

Problems of nutrition are included in the plans of the Moscow Oblast Sanitation-Hygiene Institute, Sanitation Institute imeni Erisman, and the Leningrad Sanitation-Hygiene Institute.

Problems dealing with child and adolescent hygiene are strongly represented in the plan of scientific-research works.

Much attention was given in the 1951 thematics to problems on labor hygiene and occupational diseases, sanitary working conditions, and living conditions of workers in leading branches of industry. The Sverdlovsk Institute of Labor Hygiene and Occupational Diseases will conduct research on such subjects as "Effectiveness of Hygienic Measures at Copper-Smelting Plants," "Condition of the Nervous System in Persons Exposed to the Chronic Action of Fluorine Compounds," and "Clinical Treatment of Aluminosis in Workers Producing Aluminum Powders."

In the Leningrad Institute of Labor Hygiene and Occupational Diseases studies will be made of the comparative effectiveness of using wet drilling, with and without the use of surface-active agents, and of sanitary working conditions in the shipbuilding industry. The Gor'kiy Institute of Labor Hygiene and Occupational Diseases will work together with clinical workers on many hygiene problems of the chemical industry. In 1951, development of the problem of silicosis, silicotuberculosis, and aluminosis will be continued jointly with corresponding clinics. The Sanitation Institute imeni Erisman will continue work on problems of labor hygiene in the coal-mining industry, taking into consideration the use of new mechanisms in mines. The Saratov Sanitation-Hygiene Institute is studying the sanitary conditions of farm labor.

Insufficient emphasis in the 1951 plans has been given to problems on the hygiene of apartment and public buildings, and also to problems on regional studies.

Mention should be made of the fact that the outstanding feature of the 1951 scientific work plan of hygiene institutes is the trend toward the study of the effect of environmental factors on the entire organism and under natural working conditions, and study of the living conditions of groups of people. This trend in the scientific activity of hygiene institutes is indicative of the fact that scientific workers of institutes have come a long way in the reorganization of their scientific work on the basis of I. P. Pavlov's teachings.

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